

# EMC News

October 4, 2001

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## ***Environmental Review Committee***

The committee's September 25 meeting began with another report from Mikel Shakarjian on the proposed obstruction removal project at the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport. The exact location of the tree removal was determined and correlated with the UNA boundary on a digitized aerial photo with GIS overlays. The affected area within the UNA is 1/16th of an acre. The committee will determine if the inclusion of this small area in the corner of the UNA was due to some significant feature. The committee also asked if clear-cutting the entire area was proposed or necessary.

Ithaca Area Municipal Wastewater Collection System Improvements and Intermunicipal Agreements: Barbara Ebert drafted a letter outlining the committee's concerns regarding the Draft Scoping Document and submitted it to John H. Merriman, NYDEC Division of Environmental Permits. The letter asked for greater analysis of growth impacts due to the proposed action, listing of the proposed action with the alternatives to facilitate comparison of all alternatives and suggested consideration of a broader range of alternatives.

Tompkins County Oil and Gas Leasing Requests: The Committee briefly discussed oil and gas leasing issues on Tompkins County properties, but tabled any decision-making until at least the next committee meeting because of limited attendance and the need for members to finish reviewing the documents.

Danby Community Park: It was agreed that because the proposed Danby Municipal Park would impact UNA-172, the Danby Fir Tree Swamp, and that the project appears to have grown to include a possible Child Care Center and Senior Housing, the committee will request "interested agency" status from the Danby Town Board, the entity requesting Lead Agency status.

Elmira Road Shopping Center site plan review: The committee decided to take no action at this time on this matter, agreeing that previously submitted responses were adequate.

*Submitted by Steven Uzmam*

**Don't Forget!**  
**October 10, 2001 EMC Meeting**  
**Special Guest: Kate Hackett**  
**Tompkins County**  
**Vital Communities Initiative**

## ***Announcements***

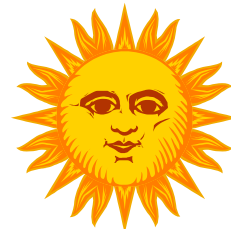
### Energy Saving Tip of the Month

National Solar Home Tour Steve and Cindy Nicholson will be hosting their fifth annual Solar Home Tour on Saturday, October 13 from 10 am to 4 pm. Come learn how you can cut your electric bill in half, finance a photovoltaic system that can sell back excess power to NYSEG for \$100 a month, and strategies to eliminate the need for all of the 120 new power plants proposed by the Bush administration.

Electrical power production is responsible for fifty percent of greenhouse gas emissions, and our homes use twenty five percent of this power. Reducing electrical usage with efficient lights and appliances, and switching to sustainably produced power is the most important environmental contribution households can accomplish. Steve and Cindy have designed and built their house to be as energy efficient as possible without giving up any of the modern conveniences.

Incorporating passive solar, wood heat, photovoltaics panels and a windmill, their family of four uses one tenth the electricity of an average home. Please call Steve at 539-6923 for directions.

*Submitted by Steve Nicholson*



Purchase of Development Rights Study  
Upcoming Public Meetings

*Public Meeting*

November 8, 2001 at 7:00 PM  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
615 Willow Avenue

*Focus on Agricultural Land with Farm Community*

October 15, 2001 at 7:00 PM  
Enfield Grange, near Enfield Town Hall  
Enfield Main Road

October 16, 2001 at 12:00 Noon  
Dryden VFW  
Route 13

*County Board of Representatives*  
December 18, 2001  
County Courthouse, Tioga Street

*No Reports Submitted*

Chair's Report

Coordinator's Report

Pesticide Committee Report

Education Committee Report

Executive Committee Report

Water Resources Committee Report